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FOREIGN DEPARTMENT

IN CHARGE OF
LAVINIA L. DOCK, R.N.

WAR WORK OF DANISH NURSES

The neutrality of Denmark during the war enabled her to practice Red Cross principles to their full extent. When the war broke out many Danish nurses offered their services, at home and abroad. Danish nurses have not military rank, but they work under favorable conditions, and in their quarters and when traveling they are treated as officers are, and have similar provision made for their environment. The peace-times army nursing corps is small, and is directed by a Superintending Matron, Cecilie Lütken, who is also a member of the Red Cross Central Board. Nurses' aides are trained for war service by a course in First Aid, followed by six months' hospital work.

The help of Danish nurses was accepted by the armies of Austria, Hungary, Serbia, Russia and France, and they served during the entire war. The contingent for Austria was asked for by Sister Agnes Karll, head of the Free Sisters in Germany, who was evidently active in nursing organization, as judged by this detail.

Denmark also supported military hospitals of her own in France and Russia and, for a time, maintained an ambulance service in Finland. Only fully trained nurses were appointed to these staffs. Two camps for prisoners of war with, in all, twenty-four hundred beds, were also cared for by Danish nurses.

At many points in the warring countries Danish women were placed in administrative posts of great responsibility. This was especially the case in Russia, where they had the disbursement of money and other supplies.

After the Armistice, the British Red Cross engaged a great many Danish nurses to accompany the Allied soldiers back from German war prisons, and about sixty thousand of these released captives passed through Denmark on their way home to France and England. Danish nursing leaders have been greatly impressed by the need of more uniformity of standards in the training of nurses, and by the importance of knowing foreign languages. They who are, themselves, excellent linguists, had this brought home to them by what they saw during the war.